

Amherst Recycling & Refuse Management Committee **Meeting Minutes**

April 12, 2012 • Department of Public Works • Conference Room, 4:30PM

Attending: Meg Vickery, Susan Morrello, Cristina Cox Fernandes, John Root, Laurel Dickey, Brenda Davies, Sue Cairn, Susan Waite, Martha Hanner (LWV), Karen Bouquillon (Northampton Waste Management Supervisor)

- March minutes approved unanimously.
- Landfill Alternatives Subcommittee update: The Subcommittee feels that they can't enthusiastically support landfills or waste to energy (WTE) plants, but WTE may be slightly preferable. The group is still creating the report for Guilford and Town Manager. Will include info on best use/role of the transfer station. Draft of report will be provided before the next meeting.
- Finalize plan for foam-free initiative:
Motion to proceed with 4 steps: Send a mailed letter, make visits to establishments still using foam, acknowledgement of those establishments that are foam free, bringing an initiative before town meeting. Unanimously approved. Interested committee members: Brenda Sue C. Cristina, Susan M., Laurel. Motion to create a 5-person subcommittee of the RRMC to forward to foam-free initiative. This subcommittee will work collaboratively with other organizations in town such as the League of Women Voters and the Hitchcock Center.
- Finalize plans for the Amherst Sustainability Festival (booth scheduling & textile recycling & Eco-Hero Hunt updates): Make foam alternatives sign from info in newspaper insert. Textile recycling info shared. Items collected will be divided between the Fisher House and the Amherst Survival Center. Banner, flyer, and article are all advertising the event.
- Discuss Committee's role in Taste of Amherst (Father's Day weekend) composting project: The event planners (Chamber of Commerce and Taste organizing committee) want to "Go Green" this year by using only compostable disposable serving ware (cups, plates, utensils), and sorting compost from trash. They would like the Committee's help making it happen. All participating restaurants have been told no unrecyclable or un-compostable items will be allowed at the event. Motion to have the RRMC devise a process, organize the infrastructure, devise and provide training to coordinators and identify groups who could volunteer to manage the refuse. Unanimously approved.
- Determine Committee's role in Trash Free Lunch Day: Susan is looking for representatives to monitor each elementary school's lunchroom for Trash-Free Lunch Day (Friday, May 4, 11:30-1:30). Meg/Wildwood, Brenda/Crocker Farm, Susan M./Fort River.
- New Business
 - Spring rain barrels sale for Amherst residents- New supplier (same as Northampton). Spigot is low to the ground. Deadline for ordering is May 7th. Supplier also has composters. All will be available for perusal at the Sustainability Festival.
 - Free unwanted drug collection at Wildwood School – April 28th.
 - There will be a meeting on 4/18/12 at Northampton DPW to discuss the possibility of a regional anaerobic digester.
 - Next meeting May 3rd.